

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, second paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

In the course of inserting the punching die 22 in the bore 18, three snap-in balls 32, each of which is seated in a transverse bore 30 in the front end of the die plunger 12, snap into an annular groove 34 in the rear of shaft 20 of the punching die 22 immediately prior to reaching the axial end position in which the rear of the collar 26 rests against the front end face of the die plunger 12. The snap-in balls 32 are urged radially inward by ~~a spring~~ an elastic washer 36 made of steel or other elastic material, which surrounds them but, because of a slight inward taper of the transverse bores 30 in the area of their outlet into the bore 18, they are prevented from falling out of the transverse bores 30 after the punching die 22 has been pulled out of the bore 18 of the die plunger 12. The axial position of the transverse bores 30, whose diameter matches the diameter of the snap-in balls 32, in relation to the front end face of the die plunger 12, and the axial position of the annular groove 34 in relation to the rear face of the collar 26, have been selected to be such that in the assembled state represented in the figures the collar 26 rests against the front end face of the die plunger 12, and at the same time the snap-in balls 32 enter as far as possible into the annular groove 34. In this position the ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 takes up a substantially concentric position with respect to the punching die 22 between the snap-in balls 32 and the bore wall of the guide bushing 10. In this case the radial distance between the ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 and the bore wall should be as short as possible in order to minimize a radial deflection movement of the snap-in balls 32 and a corresponding axial movement of the

punching die 22 with respect to the die plunger 12 during the transition from the punching stroke to the return stroke. The ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 is seated in an annular groove 38, the width of which matches its height, in the die plunger 12, whose central plane coincides with the transverse plane in which the central longitudinal axes of the transverse bores 30 are located. The ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 is preferably a spiral spring washer having several turns, as best shown in isolation in Figure 3.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, first paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

As long as the front end of the die plunger 12 is located in the guide bushing 10, the punching die 22 is maintained unreleasably in the bore 18 by the snap-in balls 32. The balls 32 cannot radially exit the annular groove 34, because they would have to widen the ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 beyond the limits of its radial expansion to do this. But the ~~spring~~ elastic washer 36 can only be minimally widened until it engages the bore wall of the guide bushing 10. Thus, in the assembled state the fastening arrangement shown and described here represents an absolutely dependable, positive locking, which is relieved at one end, so that large punching forces can also be transmitted.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, first paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

On the other hand, the described fastening arrangement permits a very rapid and simple removal and exchange of one punching die 22 for another. As soon as the front end of the die plunger 12 has been removed from the guide bushing 10, the ~~spring~~ elastic washer 26 maintaining the snap-in balls 32 in their inner end position can easily

be deflected radially outward when the punching die 22 is pulled out of the bore 18 by a manual pull and in the process the snap-in balls 32 are radially urged out of the annular groove 34. In the process the ~~spring elastic~~ washer 36 maintains the snap-in balls 32 in their transverse bores 30 and, following the removal of the punching die 22, urges them into their radially inner end position in the tapered inner outlet opening of the transverse bores 30. Also, during insertion of a new punching die 22 into the bore 18 outside of the guide bushing 10, the snap-in balls 32 can initially be deflected radially outward while the ~~spring elastic~~ washer 36 is widened, before they snap into the annular groove 34 directly ahead of reaching the represented end position, in the course of which the diameter of the ~~spring elastic~~ washer 36 is reduced until it again fits into the bore of the guide bushing 10.